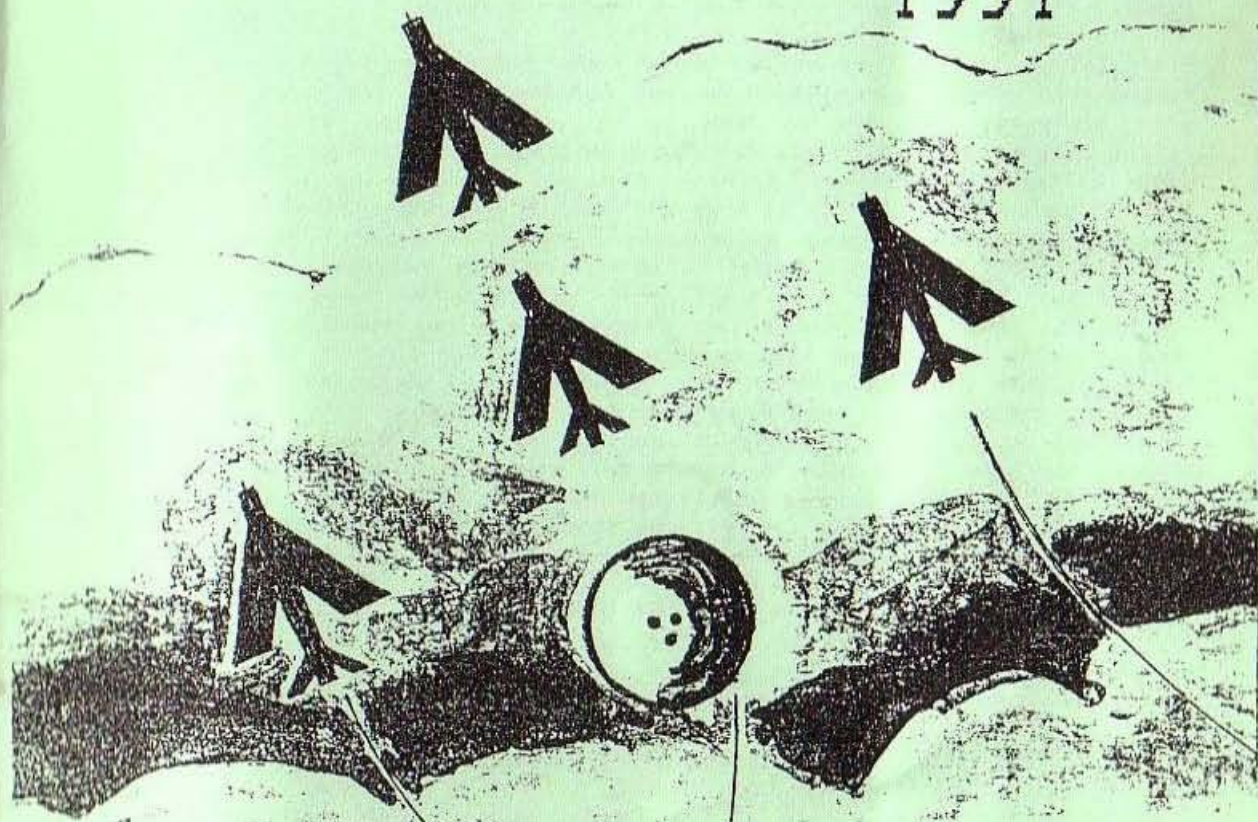


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

147
FEBRUARY
1991



All the news, views and up to date cases £6 for six
Editor: Jenny Randles Cover: Bill Callaghan

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37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE ENGLAND SK3 0UP

J. R. Comments.... Altered states of consciousness have long been recognised as a close relation to the UFO mystery. But you would rarely know it from studying the work of parapsychologists. Why is this?

Recently a friend lent me his copy of the new book by Brian Inglis (Trance - A natural history of altered states of mind...Paladin, 1990 - price £4.99).

Generally this 304 pp book is very interesting as a survey of the field. However, whilst it reviews the development of scientific research into our understanding of the brain, the mind and states like hypnotism, mediumship, regression and even up to the near death experience - something is missing. That something is the UFO mystery.

Now Inglis is widely considered a doyen of the supernatural field. Whilst the rest of us who write books think ourselves lucky if one responsible press source (such as the Independent or Times) mention our work alongside the sea of speculative junk from the tabloids, it is virtually guaranteed that all the highbrow press will discuss a new volume from Inglis. Why? Is it deep literature or art? Is he a top scientist? No. Neither of these things really apply. But Inglis is 'respectable', because he was once a newspaper editor and presented 'All Our Yesterdays' on TV.

There is something ironic in that. Trance is somewhat an 'All Our Yesterdays' book. Inglis writes well about what he knows - but does he know enough? Is there any reason for his apparent ignorance of the UFO subject, or is it relevant that he is a member of the Society for Psychical Research? This group has never taken UFOs seriously enough and - so far as I know - reviewed just one of my many books, thanks purely to Scott Rogo. I recall the almost amazed response from some members that extraterrestrial nonsense such as ours might in any way have a part to play in unlocking the secrets of the psyche. However, surely lessons must now have been learnt?

After all there are few excuses. Prominent SPR members like Hilary Evans and Manfred Cassirer are active UFOlogists - major participants within BUFORA and, in Hilary's case, author of perceptive books - including a fine one on altered states. He does NOT make the same mistake of ignoring UFOlogy (and also does not get the coverage that Inglis is getting).

It is as if there is a reverse taboo about UFOlogy. Just as we are concerned about media over-reaction, the psychic research community under-react by pretending (for it is a pretence) that UFOs are something only the lower classes deal with that could not possibly contribute to the elusive grand design which they have been seeking for over a century.

To put it bluntly, this sort of snobbishness which a good deal of psychic research seems to me to be unconsciously generating is extremely offputting. It is also self destructive. They are missing out on vital evidence which may well in no small measure be part of the reason why they fail so miserably in their appointed task.

How dare I say this? Quite simply. It is not important whether UFOs are the product of an alien intelligence, natural processes or aberrant mental states. What is important is that - whatever they are - they function through altered states of consciousness. That fact screams out from every responsible piece of research about the close encounter phenomenon and could not possibly be missed by any psychic researcher who bothers to look. Yet do they bother to look? Sometimes I seriously doubt it.

Look at the plethora of 'encyclopedia' of the supernatural that have recently appeared from writers within the psychic community. You will see something quite amusing.

What we find is rather like what we find when we open up books by those two other socially acceptable paranormal commentators, whose work is also given a high media profile...ie Lyall Watson and Colin Wilson. Wilson notably recently wrote about UFOs and his resume discussed the work of Keel and Vallee - ie Keel and Vallee mostly as they were 25 years ago. Lyall Watson has at least added to his theses some praise for Paul Devereux, but otherwise UFOlogy has seemingly been stuck in a time warp.

In fact, from a psychic research point of view - indeed from all points of view concerned with understanding the nature of consciousness - by far the most interesting developments have come in the past decade. We have seen the unravelling of the psychic contactee, the moulding of the abduction phenomenon and the increasing evidence of a psychic track record in close encounter witness lives. I might personally add things like the Oz Factor to the list - but even without this the signs are obvious.

Anyone looking at altered states WITHOUT taking these things into account (indeed in many cases I fear without apparently even KNOWING they exist!) has no chance of success, because they are failing to take note of one critical fact. The UFO phenomenon has become THE modern vehicle for expressing an age old experience. It is rampant in our society because it is topically relevant. For psychic research to blithely ignore it means they ARE living in the past. Anyone who looks and sees the important parallels between past life regressions, near death experiences, out of body states and UFO abduction memories knows instantly the fruits of this relationship.

It is rather like a chemist learning all they can about ancient attempts to transmute metals via alchemical principles, professing grand theories based on these old stories and either ignoring or (worse still) being unaware of all the research, hard evidence and data that surrounds them from modern nuclear physics. This not only helps explain but also allows us to literally perform such transmogrifications.

It is time that psychic researchers woke up to the value which the UFO evidence has to offer. UFOlogists cannot be accused of being unaware in reverse, many being widely read in this other field. Some, as explained, are even psychic researchers as well as UFOlogists. The problem is that the UFOlogists are happy to admit that they are psychic researchers - but the psychic researchers seem largely afraid and may even be secretly contemptible of the UFOlogists in their midst. That is a big mistake.

Someone had better step out of the closet - and quick!

BRIGANTIA CHANGES

Joint subscribers to NUN - Brigantia will now have the January issue. If not you miss out on our sister publication which delves more deeply into topical debates and research and opens up its pages for your comment. You can add Brigantia to a 1991 subscription at the reduced package rate. Send:

(to be added on to your subscription - payable 'NUFON').

Brigantia has decided not to increase their subscription charges. NUN has pegged our six-issue rate at £6 for the third year. Had Brigantia raised its levels this would have sadly meant an increase in the joint subscription fees and printing and postal costs have indeed risen steeply. So to compensate Brigantia intends to produce four instead of six issues per year. We apologise that their decision came after we sent out our renewal sheets. We hope you think 10 issues per year is still a good deal and the NUN - Brigantia teams plan to continue our reader-priority service.

NEWS ROUND UP:



:: None of you can be unaware of the terrible events in the Middle East. I am indebted to Margaret Fry who has chosen to write to some of the lonely British soldiers in the Gulf to chat with them on UFOs, among other things. One young man out there reports that some very unusual secret aircraft and remotely piloted machines have flown over the positions of allied troops - indicating that those who suspect some UFOs are advanced earthly technology have got it right. Margaret asks if 'any young ladies' reading this might write to the chap concerned - or indeed whether any of you might like to drop a line to allied forces and discuss anything (including UFOs). I'll be sending this magazine to the front and if anyone has time for such a worthy cause write to:- 24905167 Gunner Scammell BC'S 432 Command T.P. Q.R.I.H. Op. Gramby B.F.P.O. 644. They need your support in these rough days.

:: Channel 4 recently notified me that their highly praised TV series 'The Secret Cabaret' is being repeated Saturdays from 16 February to 23 March (11.10 pm onward). I had great fun filming for what was eventually squeezed down to a 'blink and you'll miss it' slot in show three, but the series overall blended macabre cabaret, magic, debunking, the supernatural and eccentrics in a very different style... I am not saying which category I was signed up for! Plans for a second series are underway - hopefully involving a British abductee, if recent discussions work out as expected.

:: More booklists have come our way. The usual series of catalogues from Arcturus in the USA (PO Box 831383 Stone Mountain GA 30083-0023) offers the best way to keep in touch with the many new US titles not written by authors who make it here. Each title is always fully described and reviewed in the catalogue to guide your choice. Meanwhile list number 5 is out (for an SAE) from Aardvark (so named as it is the place to go to find all those titles which are otherwise hard to track down? - just a thought) They have a selection of 76 second hand bargains ranging from the Lorenzon's Flying Saucer Occupants at just £1.30 to a US edition of Keel's Operation Trojan Horse at £40 which is a collectors item being personally inscribed by Keel to Charles Bowen on 1970 publication. (Address:- 8 Braddon Ave Urmston Manchester M31 3UE) Finally a new list specialising in crop circle titles from Spacelink (115 Hollybush Lane Hampton Middlesex TW12 2QY). Send an SAE. Aside from all the various books in this long running cereal (7 - if you count the very first, ie the 1986 booklet 'Mystery of the Circles' - two years out of print from BUFORA - here offered as a facsimile for just £2 - issues of the two available crop circle magazines - The Crop Watcher and The Cereologist - are also listed... ie EVERYTHING there is to read on the latest craze in UFO circles...oops).

:: Finally, Philip Mantle seeks 'UFO/Flying Saucer models and kits, both new and second hand, plus UFological memorabilia of all types (badges, stickers, T-shirts, videos etc). Reasonable prices paid. Overseas items especially.' He does not say what this is for - although rumour has it his car is clapped out and he'll be turning up to the August conference in Sheffield by a most unusual hand built mode of transport. If you can help his ambition, write to:- 1 Woodhall Drive 'batty' (sorry Batley) West Yorkshire WF17 7SW

33p per min net pay

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CIRCULAR MOTIONS:



One surprise is that the crop circle affair has now transcended the winter break to maintain an almost constant profile in both the press and UFO media. American UFOlogy is now greeting it warmly, with articles in most of the journals (ranging from the interesting to the trivial and trashy).

On 20 Nov the Northern Echo carried a picture of a stranger peeping out from behind a tree under the heading 'The man who chases circles'. This was not (as you might think) some weirdo from the circle hunting fraternity on the look out for preying MIBs (even if the camerawork was a bit much). No - this was Dr Dennis Wheeler, geography lecturer at Sunderland Polytechnic who has followed the debate for 'ten years' in 'the scientific press' but started real research with the first recent cases in the north-east last summer. He came over sensibly, dismissed alien messages and other theories as 'lunatic' and plumped firmly for a plasma vortex as the cause, explaining this in some detail to the doubtless bemused reporter. Obviously hot from reading 'Crop Circles: A mystery solved' he said; 'Far from UFOs explaining circles, circles may explain what were previously thought to be UFOs.'

Hands up those who said Dr Meaden has no serious unbiased support?

Meanwhile, not to be deterred by such assurance, Pat Delgado hit back in the Hampshire Chronicle (4 Jan). He remains convinced that 'an intelligence far greater than man' is responsible and 'predicting human intentions'. The article later claims 18 counties have now been infested and 'one was even spotted in an overgrown Birmingham city garden'. The only likely case I can find in my files which seems to match this was to my eyes fairly clearly a fungal ring. Whatever, Pat is quoted as adding that the latest complex formations 'are the beginning of something great to come.'

Ralph Noyes had a fair piece in the Guardian (7 Jan) in which he offers the usual sound reasons why hoaxing is NOT the full answer; although admitting that the CCCS (Centre for Crop Circle studies) 'has reliably detected about a dozen other hoaxes around the country in 1990.' Time then to publish a dossier on these alongside 'real' circles and prove to others it is easy to tell the difference. Doubts remain rife in some quarters.

The Wiltshire Gazette (10 Jan) announced the big breakthrough in crop circle study. A top scientific research had proved they were all made with a garden roller...or, well, 'eight (French) students came to Alton Barnes last June...and have proved this by creating their own set of patterns.'

24 Jan was a busy day for cereology with two articles. The North Avon Observer broke the big story that 'on 23 March spotters from all over the world will be gathering at Patchway High School for a major conference'. If you were as unaware of this huge event as I was, read on. Apparently, 'many of the country's leading UFO and crop circle experts plus speakers from Germany will be there'. Right. It will 'feature all the latest discoveries including photographs from an alleged UFO crash in Russia'. Naturally. Key speaker appears to be George Wingfield of 'the Centre for Crop Circle Studies; Britain's leading UFO authority.'... So, BUFORA, now you know.

Meanwhile in the Scotsman the Earl of Haddington, easily the most influential cereologist, expounds his basis for interest. It seems that the Meaden theory 'infuriates cereologists' (usually a good sign that someone is on the right lines in my experience). His Lordships answer - hoaxes...but hold on, not boring ones done by humans. No - the paper tells us circles are protest scribbles from guardian spirits demonstrating against pollution. I await a circle at Cheesefoot proclaiming 'Major out - vote for Fairy Nuff - your green spirit candidate' ... And doubtless one will now arrive on cue!

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:



Major articles elsewhere

It seems that I offended *Globe in Transit* last month, for which I apologise. Regular readers will know that *NUN* is not always meant to be taken 100% seriously. However, I apologise for any offence and assure you I was not trying to prevent you buying 'H-Bomb in Reverse' (their booklet about the spaced out experiences of the late rock star Jim Morrison). If that was the aim then I would have just ignored it! It's an acquired taste but if interested send £1.30 to 'Daniel' 11 Wharton Street London WC1X 9PX

New titles to mention include:- *CHALLENGE*, a curious 24 pp A5 format with peculiar cartoons. Highly esoteric its tough to tell you what its about, as I couldn't really work it out myself. Next issue promises articles like 'The Bible came from Middlesbrough and a strip cartoon called 'Bland Acres'. You mustn't be a Mary Whitehouse either, by the way. Address 24 Clare Ave Darlington Durham DL3 8SL. £1 sample copy... *SKOOB Occult Review* is far more lavish, a full glossy mag such as would grace any WH Smith. Deeply esoteric and mystic articles, interviews, book stuff and occasional reference to UFOs from that perspective it is certainly delicious to look at and different. Specialising in 'Esoterica' (as they term it) it could be worth a look if you are into broad studies. £8 for four from 19 Bury Place Bloomsbury London WC1A 2JH... *ANNALS OF THE ENNQUIRING* brings us back to earth showing what can be done with a word processor, a few typefaces and a graphics art disk. Aiming to cover 'UFOs - Fortean - Paranormal - Earth Mysteries' - the 20pp A5 first outing (Jan 1991) has plenty of bits and pieces in short item format. Stuff like 'ghost army' and 'did a green ray kill farmer?' abound and you may need sunglasses to put up with some of the overpowering print, but interesting. £4 for 4 (or £1.25 for sample copy) 69 Shaftesbury Rd Weston Super Mare Avon BS23 2YB... Finally, from the USA *INDEPENDENT AERIAL PHENOMENA RESEARCH* is at present just a 16pp A4 modest product but with an impressive no-nonsense style, eg a report turning a classic UFO into an IFO and other well structured investigation work. This could go somewhere as an American UFO magazine that really does critically assess case activity. We'll see... No price details given but I hope to see more before next *NUN* (address: 963 Jefferson Ave San Bernardino CA 92410)

UFO Times Nov (six per year with BUFORA Sub 103 Hove Ave London E17 7NG) Running a bit late, but still improving. A Randles/Noyes special assessing the Bentwaters case 10 years on. Good research too on witness perception.

Magonia Jan (£4 - or 7 ECU! - for 4, 5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB) Aside from being the first UFO journal to accept ECUs - not an April Fools joke it seems - the usual rich mix of incomprehensibility and insight. Child abuse and abductions is the theme of this issue with several good articles.

UFO Debate Dec (£8 for 6, 40 Stubbing Way Shipley West Yorks BD18 2EZ) Settled now into a neater, tighter A5 package. It has significantly improved whilst retaining its very weird flavour. Everything from Biblical UFOs, are aliens angels, crop circles and quantum mechanics to the expected sensible UFOlogy from Robert Moore. Now well worth a look for the free thinkers.

J. Meteorology (Dr GT Meaden 54 Frome Rd Bradford on Avon Wilts BA15 1LD) A new 1934 Cambridgeshire circle case is the highlight of December's issue

Fortean Times 56 (£8 for 4, FT 20 Paul Street Frome Somerset BA11 1DX)
What can you say about FT? Great. More strange phenomena per square inch than anywhere else on earth. Nigel Watson reviews the Livingston case saga.

Folklore Frontiers (£4 for 4, 5 Egton Dr Seaton Carew Hartlepool TS25 2AT)
A lot more on the urban legend side of bogus social workers, child molesting etc- plus a crop circle (eg 'time to ditch tedious Terry Meaden') update.

The Skeptic Nov/Dec (£10 for 6, PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH)
The British CSICOP groups journal is either a breath of fresh air or infuriating according to how liberal you are - but indispensable to the true researcher. Yet reprinting an article from UFO Debate! Whatever next?

Just Cause Dec (\$20 for 4 from CAUS PO Box 218 Coventry CT 06238 USA)
Extraordinary news. As a postal worker editor Barry Greenwood has had to resign because a new law makes him liable to a huge fine if he speaks for money in public on 'non-fiction matters'. Doubtless the inner enclave of the government are immune on the grounds that they never speak non-fiction.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



Not much to report this time around, but the opportunity to tell you about UFO NEWSFILE, which is the latest venture from BUFORA.

Edited by Michael Hudson it was launched at the Sheffield conference with a 'launch issue' and two regular editions have followed. It aims to reproduce the best of the media coverage of UFOs in the British press giving you the chance to read all the major articles that appear.

Obviously crop circles figure a lot in the 1990 stories covered by these three editions, but there is plenty of UFO material as well. A good idea that will hopefully succeed. Each back issue costs £1 and subscription for 6 annual issues is £6 (reduced to £5 if you are a BUFORA member already). Order from UFO Newsfile 16 South Way Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST.

As there was a record (zero) entry to the competition in the last NUN to win a free subscription to NUN itself (maybe I should have offered one to all who didn't enter and that might have got you going!) then I will give you the chance to win all three in print editions of UFO Newsfile.

What do you have to do? Well, you have all seen some of the medias wonderful attempts at inventing headlines to fit UFO stories. Who will forget 'Aliens turned my son into an olive'? I also fondly recall one tabloids efforts with a NUFON case involving a field of cattle back in 1978 - 'Close En-Cow-nters' (ouch!). Well all you need to do is better these.

Send in your fictional headline for either a real case or one you've just made up. We'll print a selection next time round and the best will get the three issues of UFO Newsfile. So get into Rupert Murdoch mode.

PS: For those who were bothered (there must be someone out there) the answers to that competition on the back page of the last NUN are as follows. The quotes came from:- A (Jenny Randles - Birmingham Post)...B (Paul Fuller - Southern Evening Echo)...C (Terrence Meaden - The Times)...D (Colin Andrews - Western Daily Press)...E (Pat Delgado (Western Evening Press)...A few surprises there I bet!

MEDIA MATTERS

(((Δ)))

A look at UFOs in the public eye



The hot issue north of the border is the scheme by Livingston Development Corporation to erect a plaque at the site of the famous 1978 UFO landing. However, the problem is that the LDC want to ignore UFOlogy and the witness and word the plaque to plug Arthur C Clarke because the case was on a TV show that he subsequently fronted! This frankly daft plan seems unlikely to change, despite pressure from SPI and BUFORA. But if you want to write to BUFORA's coordinator Ken Higgins (at the SRUFO address on p.16) then let him know your views and he can pass these onto the council in the hope this monument will then at least say something UFologically sensible.

Then the town of Blairgowrie hit the headlines as 'UFO Capital of Scotland' (Sunday Mail, 13 Jan). Ron Halliday of SPI was cited discussing assorted weird events here (including - you guessed it! - crop circles - which were made by 'spaceships' according to this story!!!) Fortunately, the quotes from Ron about ley energies at this location are far less ridiculous than that. Noted media commentator Miles Kington even picked up on the topic in his column for The Independent (15 Jan). It turns out that this media star's cousin owns the land on which 'most of the crop circles occurred'. Apparently the family took pictures and locked them in a vault then rapidly cut the crop! Miles' visit to his family roots found that the locals were 'happy to see the back of them'.

We have had some interesting IFOs about - as well as the escalating plague of laser light shows. Weekly News (8 Dec) carried a good article allowing me to demystify the 5 Nov UFO seen all over southern Europe - including from a British Airways jet on a Rome-Gatwick flight. We now know for certain that the UFO was, as I am quoted as saying; 'actually a piece of a Soviet satellite'. Doubtless the skeptics will give us no credit for this expose, but the magazine are to be congratulated on an unusually fine story.

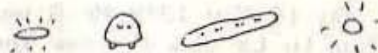
More lights in the sky over Aberdeen came in the Evening Express (28 Dec). This meteor caused the witness to describe it as 'A Hiroshima scale explosion of light' - which was a bit of an exaggeration. Probably being in such an open area caused the spectacle to look brighter than it was. This newspaper must have really pleased the astronomers at Edinburgh no end by calling them 'The Astrology Centre' and noting how some saw it as 'a prophecy of war'...which it was. Clever these folk at the observatory.

However, I really like the Portsmouth News (29 Nov) where two orange lights over Hayling Island turned out (according to one local astronomer - astrologer?) to be 'sun spots refracted through a heavy mist'...Eh?

By far the weirdest war cries are found in the South Wales Argus (2 Jan). Reporting on a Cwmbran group studying the paranormal we learn the astonishing truth (even before the war had started) that we must win as 'Military commanders on the Allied side in the Gulf crisis are men from outer space...and the Martians could already be in charge of Westminster and the White House.' This was not, as you might think, an intentionally funny article. It was part of a deep 'investigation' of the views of this group. It seems they believe 'walk ins' (ie spirit beings from out there) have done a swop with earthlings to influence the planet as it enters the age of Aquarius (just how long does this entry take? - its been going on since the sixties). Apparently Mrs Thatcher is NOT an alien but several ET's are in the US government and one is 'in high office' in the UK. Ah now - will this cabinet alien mole seek a close encounter of the Hurd kind?

BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



AROUND THE WORLD

SPAIN...1982

Mrs G (married to a Spaniard but resident in darkest Scotland) advised that she had seen 3 UFOs when in her husband's homeland. This was a mountain area (Rincon-de-Loix) near Benidorm and 'the UFO research station was jammed with callers' at this time. It was after midnight and 'was not a plane'. The second appeared later as lights over La Cala in daylight. Finally the third hovered over the mountain, made her feel odd, then dropped down INTO the mountain. She wrote to Allan Hynek in the USA but as he never replied she decided to keep quiet. I tried to persuade her to allow SPI to follow up this case but she insisted I send someone in from England as 'I am not Scottish and don't like Scotland or its people, except my family - some of whom are Scottish'... So, er, that seems to be that...

USA...1979

A very interesting letter has come from Mr C. He has two separate stories.

Between 1953 and 1956 he was at Edwards Air Force base and was present at one meeting when President Eisenhower came on a visit, but totally ignored a parade of men and officers, to be hastily driven off to the North Base for a secret session. This area is where aircraft such as the U-2 spy planes and NASA experimental vehicles were (later) kept. Mr T insists whilst on base there was no talk of UFOs and he suspects this visit by the President was probably to view a then top secret US machine. Whether this has any bearing on the supposed trip to the base around this time when the President 'saw' dead aliens (part of crashed saucer folklore) who knows?

Now working in air traffic control, Mr T has only once come across a UFO situation. This involved a pilot at night in May 1979 somewhere over Idaho. He apparently thought he was about to be run over by a group of unusual lights. The ground control radar tracked these part of the time but not all of the time. Mr T asked his bosses for information as to what happened to these reports and was told that they go to Washington - in a tone indicating that further questions were not welcome.

Mr T has a tape of this radar visual encounter as it unfolded and has offered it to me; although as yet this has not been forthcoming. I intend to keep trying and hopefully we will have more to report on this in a future issue.

USA...1989

Mr B from Beverly Hills, California, writes after reading 'The UFO Conspiracy'. He runs a technology management company and was a flight engineer in the US Navy clocking up many hours in the cockpit. He says he is 'very familiar with all types of civilian and military aircraft' and has witnessed 'optical illusions' from the air. He refers specifically to a case in UFO Conspiracy of a black 'telegraph pole' seen in clouds from an aircraft over the USSR on 5 July 1984.

On 14 May 1989 Mr B was a passenger on American Airlines flying from Dallas to La Guardia, New York. He was on an old style Boeing 727. Seated in 14A after a 07.00 departure the aircraft climbed to 31,000 feet and was above cloud cover. Whilst in the Chatanooga-Knoxville skies above Tennessee the clouds thickened ('it appeared that a bottle of milk had been poured over the landscape').

He then saw 'a jet black cylinder below and ahead of us. It appeared to be jutting through the clouds. At first I thought it was a large smokestack.' Of course, he soon worked out that from the aircraft altitude this would have to be a stack taller than the worlds tallest building, and in any case it did not move under the wing with the motion of the jet as a ground object would. It remained in view for a full five minutes.

He concluded that it was not stationary but effectively pacing the aircraft ABOVE cloud cover... 'my guess would be 100-125 feet long and 30-40 feet wide. It seemed to be perfectly smooth with no windows, fins, tails or other 'maneuvering' type appendage. The end facing the 727 was smooth and circular, much like a soft drink can... It stayed on a vertical axis or perhaps more of a 65-70 degree angle... our compass heading I would guess was northeast.'

Mr B looked briefly away to see if it could be the shadow of a nearby aircraft. There were none. He looked back and the Chatanooga UFO had gone. He adds, 'it had absolutely no resemblance to any form of aircraft I have ever seen... I do not know what I saw.'

Of course, readers of the Soviet case in UFO Conspiracy (page 128) will see the clear comparison. Was this some unusual optical mirage of the aircraft fuselage? On a trans-continental US flight in 1989 I myself saw for about fifteen minutes a halo encircled grey shadow of (I assume) our aircraft 'pacing' us on the cloud cover below. It LOOKED to be above the cloud but I was in no doubt what it was and I would in no way describe it as solid, pole looking or vertically angled. It was not closely similar to either the Soviet story or this new one from Mr but... Any thoughts?

UPDATES

Case 8345 in the August 1990 NUN described a report from Glasgow of a 'cattle truck' in the sky. Ron Halliday of SPI and Ken Higgins of SRUFO joined forces to visit the witness, Mr C, on 5 December. Heres what they say.

The district of Glasgow turns out to be Cathcart and Mr C was going for his bus on Aikenhead Road at 06.45. The object descended to about 20 feet above him making 'a humming and buzzing noise; sparks were emitting from a bulge underneath the object.' The Oz Factor appears to have been involved, 'There was no sound about me' Mr C reported. A milk float normally present at the time was also absent and all was very quiet. The object was dirty grey and the portholes a 'definite yellow' and 'egg shaped, not flush with the exterior'. 'Streaks of smoke' were seen behind these. The sparks were 2-3 inches in length.

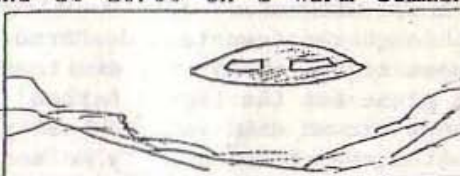
Normal sounds returned as the bus arrived and when it drove under the bridge (over which the UFO had flown) he could no longer see it. Mr C thought it 'was putting on a show for me' and speculated about it being 'a government thing'. He felt 'great' after seeing it and 'privileged'. Mr C freely acknowledged that in 1980 he had begun to have severe migraines and a brain tumour was eventually found. This was removed in 1986. The investigators were 'impressed by the witness's sincerity'.

A NEAR CE 3 WITH OZ FACTOR FROM HAGG HILL

CASE 6211 MUFORA July 1962 Hagg Hill, Sheffield, S. Yorks

B5-5

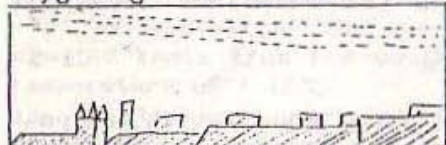
Mr R (then aged 16) was with his girlfriend at 20.00 on a warm summer evening with a clear sky. They had turned off the Rivelin Valley road onto Hagg Hill which rises steeply to Crosspool. Looking right for no obvious reason they both saw an object. It was above the valley at no more than 30 feet over ground level and travelling in silence. Being just 100 feet from them they got an excellent view of the oval or cigar shape which was a dull silver in the low sun. Two oval windows were in the side and lights shone from within these. As this was happening 'there was total silence. The road was normally busy but we never heard a vehicle.' During the estimated 15 minutes (time lost normal meaning) the object tilted once and hovered, as if observing them. 'We could see movement inside' (ie behind the windows) but no detail...except that there seemed to be animate figures present. The object vanished at 'great speed into the sky' (although elsewhere Mr R claimed - perhaps in contradiction - that 'it just disappeared...like turning off a light'). Many years later (1987) Mr R and (and on another occasion his wife) saw a white light travel along electricity pylons until it reached the end of the line and then just vanish. This was from a house some 1000 feet up the Pennines at Ringinglow.



CASE 80-105 MUFORA Nov 1980 Hyde, Cheshire

C3-5

A postman retired for bed at 20.00 (as usual) but not being tired did some skygazing with binoculars. Suddenly 'I was taken aback by the sight I saw...



Literally hundreds of lightish objects in convoy fashion passing overhead, only visible through binoculars travelling from west to east high in the sky.' He adds that 'it was an awesome sight that left me with strange feelings. They seemed to take ages to cross my view because I never saw the beginning of the convoy.' One suggestion was that the witness was seeing the Milky Way on an unusually clear night and misinterpreting movement as occurring. He himself had discarded the idea of migrating birds (too many of them, he thought) but this could well be another option given the time of year.

CASE 8661 BUFORA Unknown Summer 1986 Keelby, Lincolnshire

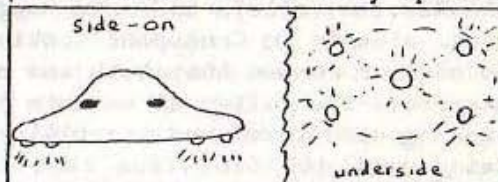
C3-5

Another postie encounter. This time Mr W was walking into the village at 17.30 on an overcast afternoon when he 'noticed a black roundish solid object moving above the tops of trees'. It moved from side to side and then just dropped down behind the trees (Roxton Woods). These movements lasted some 10 minutes. After a brief time behind the trees it climbed up again - at one point tilting slightly and seeming to catch sunlight and glow orange on the underside. Eventually (after several, ore minures) it began to climb into the sky and move completely away. The only thing that Mr W could liken the object to was a swarm of bees, because of its semi-erratic movement; although it looked too solid (but was admittedly at some distance). An insect swarm does indeed appear to be the prime candidate.

ANOTHER ENCOUNTER WITH THE SKELMERSDALE 'THING'

CASE 8756 MUFORA 12 Aug 1987 Skelmersdale, Lancs Colleen Innes A5-5

Three witnesses were involved in this experience. They were returning through the town towards Parbold, near Wigan, at 23.45. In the NE they spotted some lights which they at first took to be a plane. But the lights failed to move so they slowed down and eventually stopped to watch the object closely. Mr and Mrs D had an 11 year old daughter asleep on the back seat but she woke up as the thing flew on top of them (heading NW). She said; 'what's that? A flying car?' As it flew above them Mrs D wound down the window and they heard a very strange noise. Despite several attempts they could not compare this with anything but it was 'very soft' and 'shimmery'. From the side the object was not unlike a bubble car in shape and size but with a flatter top. It had two oval red lights (steady) on the side and a mass of brilliant blue/white lights on the base. When directly above these were seen to be in a 'five on a die' formation (typical crop circle quintuplet!) So perturbed by this were the family that after dropping them off at home, Mr D set off on his own to try to find the thing again (to Mrs D's annoyance!) This seems to be yet another example of the strange nocturnal craft which has visited this part of Lancashire on a number of occasions in recent years (see in particular case 9004 in the Aug 1990 NUN). Colleen reports that attempts to find an underground complex at nearby Warton has proved this unlikely, but MUFORA still suspects that a secret aircraft may well be test flown under cover of a UFO 'disguise' from this base where Tornado jets are built. Maybe it is a new British 'stealth' - which is also our famous 'Silent Vulcan'.



CASE 9019 13 July 1990 Swadlincote, Derbyshire

C3-3

This witness is a 'repeater' who has reported a dozen sightings in the past year. He rejects any conventional explanations for his experiences. At 00.05 Mr B was watching the sky when a 'small egg shape' appeared in the south, followed by a larger disc 'which seemed to appear from nowhere'. The two merged into one another 'through a greenish mist'. It was as if 'a scoutship was returning to the mother ship'. Mr B saw windows and 'definetely saw some form of aliens looking down towards the ground'. All this was via an open bedroom window and lasted 25 minutes. Mr B insists 'this is the truth for you to explain away in your own terms'.

CASE 9022 3 Aug 1990 Swadlincote, Derbyshire

C2-2

Mr B was back at 22.34 seeing an 'asterisk' shaped bright white light move silently across the sky SE to NW. Presumably an aircraft. He disagrees.

CASE 9023 7 Oct 1990 Swadlincote, Derbyshire

C2-2

Yes - Mr B again (I will not publish any more cases unless better documented by independent study). This time he saw a 'bluish' oval with red lights at 20.47 drift across the sky. He says; 'please - no remarks about helicopters (suggested to him for the above sighting - JR) because they are coloured white'... No suggestion offered. The case is not being pursued.

LAST OF THE SUMMER WINOS?

CASE 9024 MUFORA 11 October 1990 Holmfirth, West Yorkshire

B3-6

At 22.36 police at Oldham received two calls in quick succession from motorists on the Pennine moors east of the town. The callers reported seeing three white lights rotating around one another and a strange red beam. No details were recorded, but then a few minutes later a third call came from a woman on the A 635 at Holmfirth - just across the Yorkshire border and where the BBC TV series 'Last of the Summer Wine' is filmed. She reported the same thing and that the red light was 'like a laser on a gun sight'. It had played around and lit up her face!

A patrol car was now despatched to the scene. Meanwhile a fourth call came in from a motorist near the border on the same road. The details of the two different sets of lights were again so similar that it was concluded that these were not stories from people who had been on the wine, but genuine experiences. An address in Yorkshire was taken from this last caller but when passed to the West Yorkshire force it proved to be bogus.

When the car reached the site (just before 23.00) the officer saw nothing but found two motorists who corroborated one another and were clearly shaken. Oldham police called Manchester Airport air traffic control and within the hour they alerted MUFORA, explaining that they could not account for the events in connection with aircraft. As it happens I (JR) was returning home to Cheadle at around 23.00 that night and saw three aircraft all lined up on finals to runway 24 spread out about 4 miles apart. The last of these would have been over the moors in around the same location, but this is not unusual at Ringway and I doubt aircraft were responsible for the UFOs. Police also noted that there were no parties in the area that might have used lasers and they had no explanation to offer.

The weather at the time was as follows:- 7 oktas cloud at 2500 feet wind 10 knots from the south 10 km visibility pressure 1012 mb and a temperature of +12°C.

We think it certain that the three rotating lights were the laser spotlights used some 10-12 miles away in the centre of Manchester to celebrate the opening of a nightclub (see Oct 1990 NUN for details). These would be reflecting off the cloud base. But we have no idea what the red gun sight beam out on the moors might have been.

CASE 9025 BUFORA 16 October 1990 Chadwick End, West Midlands

C4-5

Mr M is a nurseryman who was working on a dahlia patch at 13.28. He looked up to ready himself to go in for lunch when he saw an object some feet away beside the A41 road.

His first reaction was that it was a bin bag blown skyward by wind from passing traffic, but he soon realised his error. It was a smooth and matt black rectangle which was climbing to the north from near the ground. At first it wobbled slightly but then straightened into a near perfect climb at an angle and continued to drift away in a manner not in keeping with windborn debris. It was seemingly under control.

In shape it was not unlike a box kite, but there was no sign of any string or operator despite the proximity to him and it covered far too much of the sky in the three minutes it was visible for this to be the case. No obvious explanation comes to mind here.

CASE HISTORIES

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED: - RETURN OF THE TRIANGLES

Mr H reports two interesting encounters when he was with his father, who is a businessman in a south Wales village.

The first event occurred on 17 March 1986 at 19.05. He was waiting in the car for his father to finish work in Baglan, a district of Port Talbot, when his father called to him. Rushing over he was shown an object in the sky.

In fact it was two triangles of three white lights that were 'not unusually bright'. They did not flash or blink in any way and remained completely silent. Measuring with a watch the formation was observed for 16 minutes until it drifted out of sight above Swansea Bay. It maintained the same tight formation and was judged against roof tops watching for parallax effects. These suggested that the object /s was / were very low down; although one might expect low objects to change orientation - which these did not.

There were other witnesses. The next day the South Wales Evening Post referred to events in the region and that police and coastguards at Caerphilly, Rhonda and other areas (including Baglan) had in fact witnessed the same triangular formation. However, the sightings were explained by the RAF as an aircraft refuelling exercise involving DC-10s (presumably VC-10s were meant!) Most witnesses rejected this solution and Mr H himself notes that he is very familiar with all types of air activity (he has even seen a bright bolide) and is not satisfied with this answer.

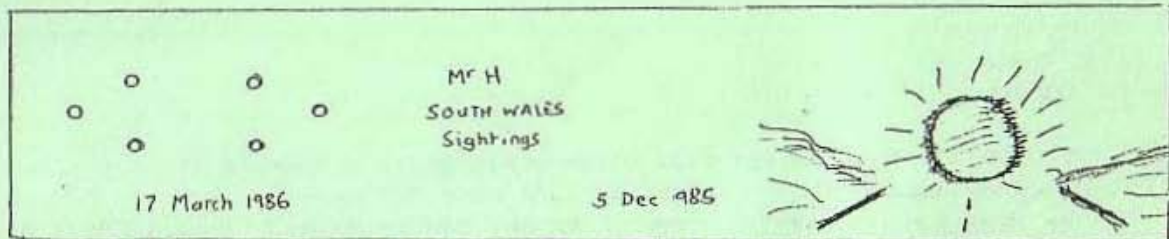
Nevertheless, I (JR) must say that the description has all the hallmarks of an aircraft refuelling exercise and seems to match remarkably well those more recent sightings from the midlands which did indeed turn out to involve VC-10s refuelling numerous smaller jets in tight formation.

What seems to occur is that all witnesses (however experienced) make the perception that the lights are all part of a huge single object (or two objects in Mr H's case) and so very low down and slow moving. In fact they are lights on many aircraft and these are 40,000 feet up - not 2000 feet or so as assumed. For that reason they move more slowly because they have a wider arc of sky to cover and maintain their tightness of formation because the jets are linked to the tankers by umbilical cords feeding fuel.

It may even be that this same explanation will wipe out another classic triangular UFO case which occurred in January 1983 over South Wales. This entered UFO folklore and featured on a TV programme I made for BBC Wales the following year.

The second sighting of Mr H is potentially more intriguing. Again Mr H (then 15) was with his father returning by car from a dental appointment. They were nearing home in Ammanford at 20.15 and the date (recently uncovered from dental records) was 5 December 1985 - ie shortly BEFORE the above case.

A bright white light flashed to the left of the car as they passed near an open cast mine and a hill. A second later another flash occurred on the other side and then a third BEHIND the car. Mr H looked back and saw a globe of bluish white light with fuzzy edges that straddled three quarters of the road. It rapidly faded out. His father, focusing on the road ahead, saw the flashes but not this globe. However, he has only now revealed he DID see three golf-ball sized white lights whiz past the front of the car.



Mr H has also had dreams of a rugby ball shaped mini-UFO trying to enter the house and 'seen' a figure standing in the corner of the room in an orange glow. His sister has also seen 'little men dressed in black cloaks walking around the garden'. A couple of other interesting events occurred when a bright white light filled Mr H's bedroom once (so that he could not tell whether his eyes were open or shut) and another instance where the foot of his bed began to move from side to side.

An interesting coincidence is worth noting too - especially if we accept his opinion that the aircraft refuelling theory is incorrect and so, presumably, reject it for the earlier January 1983 case as well. This appears to be a similar UFO. In that case the most prominent witnesses were a young football team who were training beside the RAF base at Llantwit Major. These featured strongly in the TV programme. It appears that Mr H was a member of that very same team but left shortly before the 1983 UFO sighting!

Perhaps he escaped the triangular UFOs once - but not twice!

A MESSAGE FROM GOD! Report by Anne Griffin and Pat Delaney of BUFORA

Three teenage girls were walking on the streets chatting convivially at about 20.10 on 10 November 1990. They were in the Mulhuddart district of Dublin, Eire.

One girl brought their attention to a pink mass in the sky - not unlike a small cloud (about the size of the moon) and very distinctive in hue. It hovered for a while and was fuzzy in outline, then began to descend out of sight behind some houses. It then just faded away quite gradually.

The girls gave chase and entered a darkened field. Avril who was in the lead says she saw a black mass near the ground - as if landing - but they could see nothing further and decided not to venture onward as the ground was too marshy. One of the girls said it was 'a message from God'.

However, investigation has revealed what seems to be an explanation for this case. It appears that they were in the vicinity of and looking in the general direction of Dublin airport. They often use parachute flares here as part of emergency exercises.

These flares are red in colour but can look pink - especially from a distance through atmospheric haze. We have had a number of reports in the NUFON records of this type (eg one a few years back in Bolton). The flare drops down on a parachute so that it can remain in the air longer than a normal flare (which would just go straight up and back down again under the effect of gravity). Once the flare is expunged it continues to drift to the ground on the chute - which may well be the dark mass that Avril reported seeing.

The investigators found the witnesses sincere. They were not caught out by any questions but were returning from a party at the time. It seems that Dublin airport WERE using flares on the night in question...End of story?

FINAL WORDS

You will note from the list below a new group - EMUFORA (East Midlands UFO Research Association), organised by long term NUN reader - Anthony James.

We also have plenty of news of up and coming events. Firstly, TREAT III at the University of Kansas (5 - 10 March) - yes... six whole days! On the premise that most won't be able to afford this I'll not repeat details but focus on more cost effective ventures.

The 1991 conference at Lyon in France is well worth a trip if your French can cope. It's a beautiful part of France and the conference always attracts top names. It is not expensive either coming out at around £100 for the full two day conference (including all meals, entry, proceedings and accommodation in excellent hotel rooms). Dates are 18-20 May 1991 and for details write:- SOS OVNI Boite Postale 324 13611 Aix-en-Provence France.

Moving ahead to the big event of the summer over here, more news on the 6th international congress at the central library, Sheffield (16-18 August 1991). Speakers lined up include:- abductee Charlie Hickson (Pascagoula), Betty Cash & Vickie Landrum (horribly burned by a UFO in the famous 1980 case), American UFOlogists Budd Hopkins, Walt Andrus and Dr Eddie Bullard, Paul Norman and Judith Magee from Australia, Enrique Vicente from Spain, Bertil Kuhlemann from Belgium, Odd Gunnar Roed from Norway, Bertrand Meheust of France and Cynthia Hind from Africa... plus leading UK speakers and a rock concert by Scottish UFO band CEIV. Book early via IUN address below.

Finally advance notice from SPI of plans to stage another Scottish UFO Day in Edinburgh... provisional date 12 October... More news when available.

DIARY DATES:-

Upcoming BUFORA lectures at the London Business School (Regents Park outer Circle, starting 6.30 pm) are:-

2 March... Maurice Grosse on 'Thoughtography - pictures taken by the mind?'

6 April... Paul Bew on 'Regression hypnosis' - an insight into its effects

NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(W.Scotland)	14 McKinlay Cres, Alloa, Clackmannanshire	FK10 3RX
SRUFO	(E.Scotland)	129 Langton View, East Calder, Wst Lothian	EH53 0RE
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
HSWL	(Nth Lincs)	63 Devonshire Dr, Clayton-le-Moors, Lincs	BB 5 5RH
FUFOIG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
MUFORA*	(Cheshire)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
CONNECT	(Wharfedale)	33 Green Lane, Addingham, Ilkley, W.Yorks	LS29 0JH
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W.Yks	WF17 7SW
CUFOSC	(Shropshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire	CW 1 2SG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RW
SKYSCAN	(Staffs)	116 Repton Rd, Burton on Trent, Staffs	DE11 7AE
EMUFORA	(Notts)	8 Roosa Close, Bulwell, Nottinghamshire	NG 6 7BL
PARASEARCH	(W.Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(S.Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/van, Unicorn St, Thurmaston	LE 4 8AX
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

* NUFON archive files held, at University Chaplaincy, accessible c/o MUFORA T:0942-604265